

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MARCH 13, 2006
SERIAL NO 10/642,903

Please replace the abstract as originally filed with the following abstract:

ABSTRACT

A sealing-enhancing coating for a gasket or a portion of a gasket ~~comprises~~ includes flaky particles of chemically exfoliated vermiculite, at least 90% by weight of ~~the~~ the particles having a thickness of no more than 30 microns, and no dimension greater than 1 mm. The particles form 10 to 90 wt. % of the coating. The coating also ~~comprises~~ includes 50 to 10 wt. % of an organic polymer binder which when formed into a film 1 mm or less in thickness and heated to 300° C. in free air for 24 hours either does not decompose or decomposes leaving a residue of at least 20% by weight of film.